

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are requested.

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment, claim 1, 9 and 15 are amended; and claim 18 is added.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indications in numbered paragraphs 6 and 7, page 9 of the Office Action, that claims 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

A personal interview was held on July 19, 2006 between Examiner Willoughby, Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Sircus and Applicants' representative. A summary of the interview is provided below.

In numbered paragraph 1, page 2 of the final Office Action, independent claim 1, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,594,133 (Schmidt et al.). In numbered paragraph 3, page 5 of the final Office Action, dependent claims 6-8 are rejected as being unpatentable over the Schmidt et al. patent and U.S. Patent 5,684,665 (Rudy). In numbered paragraph 4, page 6 of the final Office Action, dependent claims 12-15 are rejected as being unpatentable over the Schmidt et al. patent and in view of U.S. Patent 6,678,139 (Greuter et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, formed at an upper end of the apparatus housing (1) is a fastening means, which is given the form of a radially outwardly extended flange 5 (e.g., paragraph [0018]; Fig. 1). During the interview, SPE Sircus requested clarification in claim 1 as to:

- 1) the flange (5) being integral with the apparatus housing (1), and

2) the flange (5) being fixed at an end of the apparatus housing (1).

SPE Sircus recommended removing "the active part is...held with a prestressing force with respect to the apparatus housing before a plug-in connection is formed" from claim 1, and better associating the prestressing force with an identifiable claim element. In response, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the integral and fixed aspects of the flange, and claim 9 is amended to associate the prestressing aspect with the spring element. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended to obviate the prior art rejections as discussed.

As amended, claim 1 recites a pluggable electrical apparatus, comprising: an axially symmetrically formed apparatus housing with a housing axis running in the plugging direction, the apparatus housing having an integral flange for fastening the apparatus housing on a housing of a high-voltage installation; an axially symmetrical active part with an axially routed circuit, including a plug-in contact, a grounding terminal and a non-linear resistance element connected in between; and an axially symmetrical insulator, which forms an insulating cone and surrounds the non-linear resistance element and an electrical connection with respect to the plug-in contact, wherein the flange for fastening is fixed at an end of the apparatus housing, the apparatus housing being electrically conductive, and wherein the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing.

As discussed during the interview, the Schmidt et al. patent discloses a flange 17 displaceably arranged on an end section 14 of the housing, and can be displaced against a spring 18, which is arranged between an expanded area 16 of the section 14 and the flange 17 (col. 3, lines 62-67). The flange (17) and the spring (18) are guided on a housing section (14) in the form of a bottle neck (col. 3, line 54 - col. 4,

line 14). Accordingly, the Schmidt et al. patent does not teach or suggest, among other features, an integral flange fixed at an end of the apparatus housing, as recited in claim 1.

Further, the Schmidt et al. patent discloses that an active part 8 is surrounded by a dielectric sleeve 13 for insulation from the wall of the housing 10. During the production of the surge arrester, an elastic dielectric material is first poured in the liquid state into the housing 10 which already accommodates the preassembled active part 8 (col. 3, lines 35-43). Polymerizing of the poured material forms the elastic sleeve 13 in the housing 10 (col. 3, lines 43-45). Accordingly, the sleeve 13, therefore the active part 8, are fixedly secured to the housing 10 by means of a polymerization process (col. 3, lines 40-45). The Schmidt et al. patent does not teach or suggest, among other features, "the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing," as recited in claim 1.

The Rudy patent fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Schmidt et al. patent. The Rudy patent discloses a surge arrester comprising an active part including electrical components 60, 62. The active part is arranged undisplaceably in an insulating housing 58 (e.g., col. 3, lines 8-16). The Rudy patent does not teach or suggest a flange for fastening fixed at an end of an apparatus housing, the apparatus housing being electrically conductive, wherein the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing, as recited in claim 1.

The Greuter et al. patent fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Schmidt et al. patent. The Greuter et al. patent discloses a bushing which is shown in Figs. 7a-c in the form of a cable plug connection. However, the bushing as disclosed in the Greuter et al. patent does not relate to the pluggable electrical apparatus as

claimed. The Greuter et al. patent does not teach or suggest a flange for fastening fixed at an end of an apparatus housing, the apparatus housing being electrically conductive, wherein the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing, as recited in claim 1.

The Schmidt et al. patent, the Rudy patent, and/or Greuter et al., considered individually or in the combination relied upon by the Examiner, fail to teach or suggest a flange for fastening fixed at an end of an apparatus housing, the apparatus housing being electrically conductive, wherein the active part is mounted displaceably in the axial direction in the apparatus housing, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over the Schmidt et al. patent, Greuter et al. patent, and the Rudy patent. The remaining claims depend from the aforementioned independent claims and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, these claims are also considered allowable.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL ROONEY PC

Date: July 24, 2006

By: PK

for Patrick C. Keane

Registration No. 32,858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620